

10 years of the *Sostenible?* journal

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This year is the tenth anniversary of the *Sostenible?* journal, a university publication in the traditional sense of the university as an open space for debating emerging ideas, rather than a more academic or elitist interpretation. The first editorial of *Sostenible?* stated that it was a journal of multidisciplinary communication and dialogue at the university level on the current state of thought concerning the humanities, science and technology from the perspective of sustainability, globalisation and, in general, of reflections, analyses and proposals on the current state of the world.

The journal does not publish university research papers; instead, it focuses on reflection and multidisciplinary debate. Each issue contains monographs on a specific topic. These ad hoc contributions are written by authors selected by the Editorial Committee. Thus, the Committee plays an important role that differs from that of other publications, as it selects both the topics and the authors.

The topics addressed in this decade in some way reflect the spirit of the times and the concerns of the Editorial Committee, which is comprised mainly of teaching staff and collaborators from the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability. The topics of the first two issues, Globalisation and Biotechnology, are closely linked to the origins of the Chair and the International Conference that gave rise to its creation. At that time, the Chair had a very long name (Technology, Sustainable Development, Imbalance and Global Change) and the role of technology in development and globalisation was its initial concern.

The third issue was dedicated to Africa, because, as stated in the editorial, the Editorial Committee felt that if there was one disturbing reality that was characteristic of the change of millennium, it was the situation of this seemingly god-forsaken continent. In fact, at that time, Sub-Saharan Africa was the subject of the doctoral thesis of lecturer Josep Xercavins—the then director of the Chair—and the first occasion on which the Chair used IT

tools to assess future scenarios. This methodology became a point of reference for the research group and subsequently led to several doctoral theses.

By 2002, ten years had passed since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Therefore, the Editorial Committee chose Agenda 21 as the theme of the fourth issue. Agenda 21 was one of the main documents to be drawn up at the Summit and probably the strategy that, at the local level, contributed most effectively to promoting sustainable development. When this issue was published, Agenda 21 occupied many of the Chair's members and collaborators, who had experiences in the towns of Terrassa, Viladecavalls and Sant Boi de Llobregat. This ensured that the content of the issue contained first-hand experiences.

The fifth issue, dedicated to Democracy, preceded a long electoral period in Spain, with local, autonomous government and state elections. The journal took advantage of this opportunity to go beyond the traditional concept of democracy. It dealt with topics such as participative democracy, global and local governability and the role of technology in democracy, a debate which subsequently proved to be opportune.

The consolidation of the doctoral programme of the Chair and of the Research Group on Sustainability, Technology and Humanism; the need to reflect on the role of technology in development in the context of a technical university such as the UPC; and the need to discuss what type of research our society needs were the reasons for devoting the sixth issue of the journal to Research and Ethics. In this issue, authors addressed key topics such as the values of technology, responsible research and its limits, applied ethics and scientific and technological conscientious objection in military research.

The year 2005, nine years after the foundation of the Chair, was the right moment to tackle with sufficient perspective and knowledge one of the Chair's main paradigms. Therefore, the seventh issue was entitled Sustainability as a Frame of Reference. It was made up almost exclusively of articles by authors linked to the Chair. One of the contributors was the specialist Ramon Folch, who was then president of the UPC's Board of Trustees.

In 2006, the Government of Catalonia approved the Energy Plan for Catalonia (2006-2015), which was preceded by a comprehensive social debate on energy: one of the greatest problems of our times and at the heart of the future of sustainability. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the eighth issue

of the journal was devoted to Energy. In this issue, different authors addressed issues related to climate change, the nuclear debate, oil and capitalism, and renewable energies.

For many years, the Chair has worked to understand how our civilisation reached the current situation of ecosocial unsustainability. The fragmentation of knowledge, which arose from a mechanistic and dualistic approach to reality, brought about specialisation in areas that were increasingly separate from each other, and, consequently, an ever-increasing distance from a holistic view of reality. The paradigm of complexity aims to overcome these and other shortfalls caused by a reductionist view of society. The ninth issue of the journal addresses this debate on Sustainability and Complexity. Authors such as Edgard Morin claim that it is this type of approach that is needed to tackle problems of unsustainability, which requires a long-term, global view, among other factors.

The tenth issue of the journal is a special issue, and the change in the design marks a new phase in which, whilst maintaining the concept and type of the publication, only a few printed editions will be released. Dissemination in electronic format will gain importance. Currently, all of the journal's articles are available free of charge at the UPCommons portal (<https://upcommons.upc.edu/revistes/handle/2099/1208>).